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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,641	11/09/2001	Christian Hardy	SCHN:010	5619

7590 04/19/2005

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EXAMINER

KIM, HAROLD J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/986,641

Applicant(s)

HARDY ET AL.

Examiner

Harold Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the filing of the Amendment on 10/6/2004. The arguments have has been considered but they are not persuasive. Accordingly, this action is made **FINAL**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1, 6, 7, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lebeau, US Patent no. 5,870,626.**

4. In re claim 1, Lebeau shows programmable adapter device [fig 1] for communicating between a higher level communication protocol supported by higher level equipment [18, fig 1] and at least one lower level communication protocol supported by a lower level automation equipment [col 1, lines 34-61; 1, fig 1], the device comprising an adapter [20, fig 1] comprising a processing unit [13, fig 1; col 3, line 37] for executing program instruction, a first higher level interface [16, fig 1] for connecting with a second higher level interface [18, fig 1] in such higher level equipment, and a first lower level interface [9, fig 1] for connecting with a second lower level interface [1, fig 1] in such lower level equipment, wherein:

the adapter [20, fig 1] comprises a first memory [13, fig 1; expanded memory, col 3, lines 39] for storing a conversion program [col 1, lines 50-56; col 3, line 39] for converting between the higher level protocol and a lower level protocol, after being

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downloaded from a higher level equipment [load other programs, col 3, lines 46-52], and for being executed by the processing unit, the adapter comprises a second non-volatile memory [col 3, line 28-30] containing a resident driver program [col 3, line 30] for executing by the processing unit to initialize communication [col 3, line communication with...computers to be linked on, col 3, lines 30-37] with the higher level equipment using the higher level communication protocol and the conversion program into the first memory [col 3, line 39, col 3, lines 45-52].

5. In re claims 6, 7, and 19, Lebeau shows a lower level connecting cable [5, fig 1] connecting the lower level interface [9, fig 1] of the adapter with the lower level interface [1, fig 1] of a lower level equipment, wherein the lower level connecting cable comprises integrated recognition means [K5], detectable when the cable is connected to the lower level interface of the adapter, enabling the processing unit of the adapter to determined a complete identifier or a partial identifier of the lower level protocol using the resident driver program that is stored in the first memory of the adapter [col 2, lines 25-55; col 3, lines 1-25 and 45-52; col 4, lines 1-7; fig 1].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

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under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 2-5, 8-18, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebeau, US Patent no. 5,870,626.

9. In re claims 2-5 and 8-22, Lebeau does not explicitly show the first memory is a volatile memory, buffer memory area, using different communication channels as a function of the criticality of the messages to be transmitted, USB, BLUETOOTH, IEEE 1394-1995 standard, ModBus, Ethernet, TCP/IP, FIP, CAN, CANopen. However, it is well known in the art of computer communication to have volatile memory, buffer memory area, using different communication channels as a function of the criticality of the messages to be transmitted, USB, BLUETOOTH, IEEE 1394-1995 standard, ModBus, Ethernet, TCP/IP, FIP, CAN, CANopen standards. In addition, Lebeau teaches a device for the computer linking heterogeneous communication system as stated in the Title. The heterogeneous types are different types of communication protocols [col 4, lines 50-51]. Therefore, it would have been an obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to includes the above limitations since one skilled in the art at the time of invention should have known the industry standard protocols and the limitations are very well known in the art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the remarks, applicants argued in substance that (1) Lebeau does not disclose a resident driver program to initialize communication with the higher level equipment using the higher level communication protocol, and (2) Lebeau does not disclose a resident driver requests download of a conversion program for converting between a higher level protocol and a lower level protocol, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

Examiner respectfully traverses applicants' remarks.

As to point (1), Lebeau does show a resident driver program [appropriate software, col 3, line 30] to initialize communication [appropriate software will make it possible on the one hand to provide for all the functions described above, among others ... communication between channels on a serial communication port and communication with the apparatuses or computers to be linked on the second serial communication port of the said processor, col 3, lines 30-37] with the higher level equipment [computer 18 and 19] using the higher level communication protocol [only the computer channel processors 14 and 15 enable the computer 18 and 19 to change the configuration and possibly to load other programs and other data on the central channel 13 and thereby are able to load new protocol conversion programs, col 3, lines 47-51].

As to point (2), applicant argues (2), especially the limitation "requests download", not found in the amended claim 1. Claimed subject matter, not the specification, is the measure of invention. Limitations in the specification cannot be read into the claims for the purpose of avoiding the prior art. In re Self, 213 USPQ 1,5 (CCPA 1982); In re Priest, 199 USPQ 11,15 (CCPA 1978).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The centralized fax number is 703 872-9306.

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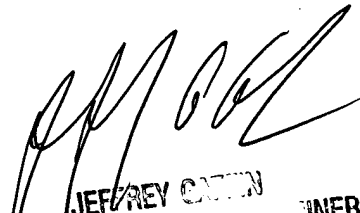
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the central telephone number (571) 272-2100.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-4148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Harold J. Kim
Patent Examiner
April 15, 2005/HK


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